

**TRINIDAD CITY HALL**

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**Chi-Wei Lin, Mayor**  
**Gabriel Adams, City Clerk**



Note: From time to time, I will report to you on what's happening in our City government. – **Chi-Wei Lin.**

Date: June 22, 2005

Re: Grant Application for Clean Water

In my last report (4/20/05), I mentioned that the ocean around Trinidad is an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). In order to preserve the pristine condition of the water and to protect the kelp beds, the state allows nothing to be discharged into this area. The City has been notified for a number of violations, including potential biological contaminants seeping into the ocean and discharge of storm water that may carry street and garden pollutants.

The State also offers a number of grants to help communities with the ASBS designations comply with the law: "planning grants" to assess the problem and develop plan to address the issues, and "implementation grants" to implement the plan. The City has decided to apply for a planning grant to address the problem of discharges into the Trinidad ASBS. The development of projects for the grant and the application assembly involved three months of intensive efforts by a group of individuals with different expertise. The City is the leading agency of the grant. The City engineers, City planners and members from the Redwood community Action Agency all volunteered their time and contributed their expertise to complete this application at no cost to the City.

The grant is titled "Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan for the Trinidad ASBS" and has a requested budget of \$500,000. The basic idea of this project is to improve quality of the water in Trinidad ASBS by targeting the sources of problem; by reducing pollutants in watersheds that empty into the ASBS. The main pollutants are soil dust and leave debris from forest land that are washed into the rivers by rain storms, biological pollutants from inadequate septic systems seeping into ground water and eventually end up in the ocean, and street waste and landscaping chemicals washed into the ocean by rain storms. The grant application contains different components - each aimed to assess and evaluate the extent of the problem and develop ways to reduce or resolve these problems. (A completed copy of the grant application, 85 pages long, is available in the City Office)

The potential benefits of this project, when fully implemented, not only could improve the quality of water in Trinidad ASBS, but also reduce the pollutants in rivers, streams and groundwater in Trinidad and Westhaven. Since Trinidad draws water from Luffenholtz Creek and many Westhaven residents rely on ground or spring water, the project may improve the water resources for area residents in addition to the protection of the kelp beds in the ASBS.

The grant process is highly competitive. The funding of our application is by no means guaranteed. We will find out the results by October. Every year, the State of California takes a considerable amount of revenue from local communities and a portion of this money is re-distributed back to the local communities in the form of grants. So, we have to try to get our share of this money by applying for those grants that fit our needs

**Chi-Wei Lin**

Mayor - City of Trinidad